

THE SPIRIT

By Will Eisner

THE UNDERWORLD'S GREATEST FOE IS, IN REALITY DENNY COLT, WHO WAS BELIEVED DEAD, OPERATING AS **THE SPIRIT** FROM WILDWOOD CEMETERY WHERE HE WAS MISTAKENLY BURIED, HE SMASHES THE ENEMIES OF SOCIETY



I'M JOHNNY BEAVER AND I'M A TOUGH GUY!! TODAY THEY'RE GONNA TURN ME LOOSE!!



YEAH... I'VE BEEN UP HERE IN STIR (JAIL TO YOU) FOR THREE YEARS... WHEN I FIRST CAME IN I WAS A GREEN KID... STOLE AUTO TIRES... BUT NOW... HA HA... I'M WISED UP!... THE OLD GUYS UP HERE HAVE TAUGHT ME THE ROPES! WHEN I GET OUT I'M JOINING UP WITH SLIM PICKENS' GANG... SLIM YOU KNOW, IS THE BIGGEST GANGSTER IN AMERICA, ... PUBLIC ENEMY NO. 1!!



ICE BEAKER IN THE MACHINE SHOP SAYS ALL I GOTTA DO IS SAY I DONE TIME WITH HIM, AND PRESTO... I'M A REG'LAR MEMBER OF THE PICKENS GANG!! NONE OF THIS GOIN' STRAIGHT STUFF FER ME!! YES SIR... YER GONNA HEAR ABOUT JOHNNY BEAVER SOME DAY!



HEY, JOHNNY... MIND IF WE BUNK THIS NEW GUEST WITH YOU?

NAW, TURNKEY... I'M BEIN' PAROLED TODAY ANYHOW!



HI' YA, PAL! WHAT'S YER HANDLE... AN' HOW LONG YA IN FOR?

NOSEY... AIN'T'CHA?



WHY, I'LL...

MY NAME'S SLIM PICKENS... AND I'M IN HERE FOR FIVE HOURS....





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WITH A COUPLE OF PALS I MET AT THE LOCAL POOL ROOM, I QUICKLY LOADED A TRUCK WITH THE GROCERIES AND STARTED OUT....

HEY! LOOK OUT, SLIM.... HERE COMES OLD ABEL!!

LEMME HANDLE HIM!



WHAT IS THE.... UHHH...



Y... YOU KILLED HIM, SLIM!!

YEAH... TSK... TSK... JACK HANDLES MAKE AN AWFUL MESS! SOON'S WE COLLECT FOR THIS SWAG I'LL BUY ME A GUN!!



...IT WAS THE GUN THAT MADE ME SUCCESSFUL... BOY!!! WHAT A GUN IN THE HAND OF A COWARD DOES!!... IT MAKES HIM SMART, BRAVE... EVERYTHING THAT HE REALLY ISN'T!... WELL, TWO MONTHS LATER....

WHO SAYS YOU'RE TAKIN' OVER MY DISTRICT?

THIS GUN AN' ME... SLIM PICKENS!



BANG!!



...AND WHEN THE SMOKE CLEARED, THERE I WAS... HEAD OF THE BIG TENTH DISTRICT MOB!!

CHEE... YA KILLED HOOLEY!

WE'RE JOININ' UP WITH YOU, SLIM!



THE REST WAS EASY... WITH A GUN FOR A BRAIN, I BEGAN SMOKING OUT THE OPPOSITION... JUST LIKE THE BIG DICTATORS IN EUROPE DO..



REMEMBER THE HALLOWEEN MASSACRE??... THAT WAS ME!!



...BY THE END OF A YEAR I HAD MY 100,000 DOLLARS, BUT...

YOU GONNA RETIRE NOW, BOSS?

NO! I WANT MORE... MORE! I'M GOING TO ORGANIZE THE GREATEST MOB IN THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES!!



...I HIRED THE BEST CROOKED LAWYERS... PLANNED ROBBERIES WITH THE BEST PHONEY ENGINEERS THAT I COULD FIND....

OF COURSE MY MEN CAN DO IT! THE **WHOLE BANK** WILL BE EMPTIED IN 2½ MINUTES!

THEY'D BETTER! ONE SECOND WASTED, AND...



...WITH THE AID OF **GUNMEN** I PUT **KEY MEN** INTO OFFICE...



...**BRIBERY AND TERROR** DID THE REST!!... I SOON CONTROLLED **EVERY** POLITICIAN **EXCEPT** THE MAYOR AND THE **POLICE COMMISSIONER**....

LOOK HERE, **DOLAN**... WHY DON'T'CHA BE SENSIBLE AND **RESIGN**? HERE'S A **CHRISTMAS PRESENT**!

BRIBE,
EH?
???



WHY, YOU MISERABLE THUG!!... I'VE SEEN **YOUR** KIND BEFORE... **ROB...CHEAT...KILL**...BUT THE **HONEST** PEOPLE ALWAYS WIN **OUT**.... AND I'M GOING TO BE IN OFFICE TO SEE IT **HAPPEN**!



HEY, BOSS... DO I??...

NO... HE CAN'T DO A **THING**..MY POLITICIANS WILL **BLOCK** EVERY MOVE HE MAKES.... **HAW!!** **HONEST** PEOPLE! WHY, EVERY HONEST SAPI IN TOWN IS **SCARED** OF ME!



I **WAS** **RIGHT**.. BUT I FORGOT ABOUT **ONE** HONEST GUY

...
THE SPIRIT!!

HE WALKED INTO MY OFFICE ONE NIGHT. SURE HAD **NERVE**... 'CAUSE I HAD **GUNMEN** ALL OVER THE PLACE!

HELLO, **SLIM**!



WELL, **SPIRIT**... DECIDED TO **JOIN UP** WITH ME? HAVE A DRINK!

NO! I'M HERE TO SPEAK FOR THE **HONEST** PEOPLE OF THE CITY... THEY'RE **FED UP** WITH YOU!

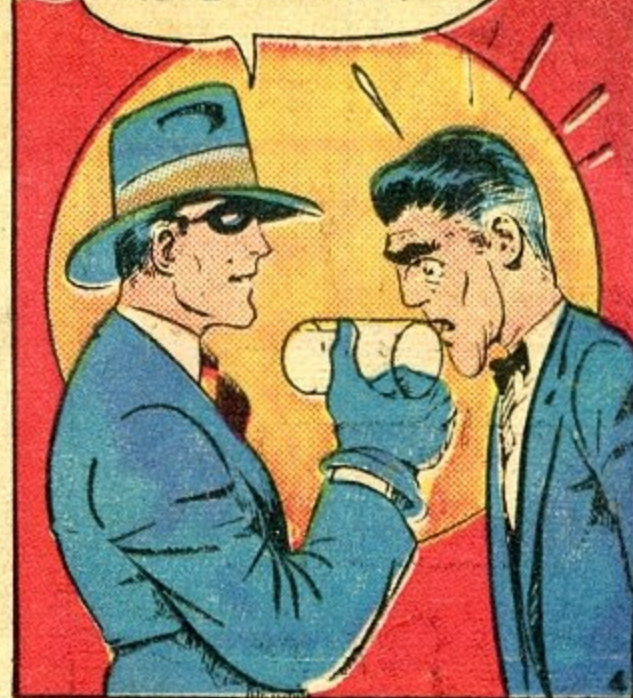


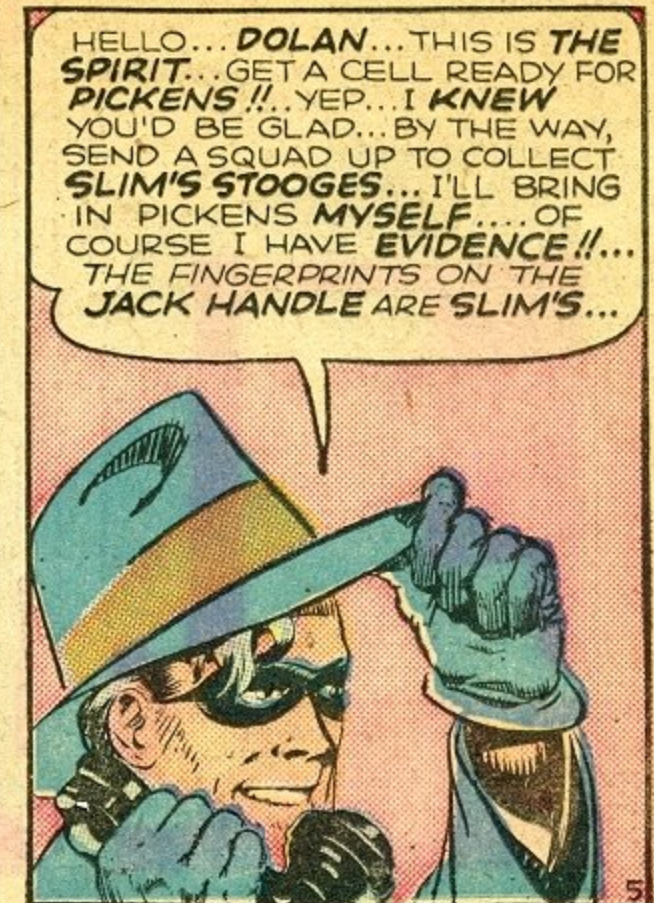
HMM...**THIS** THE GLASS YOU JUST DRANK FROM? A LITTLE OF THIS **CIGARETTE ASH** WILL DO..... SPRINKLED THUSLY...

HEY! WHAT'S ALL THIS **HOKUS POKUS** ??



THIS, MY SKINNY NAPOLEON, IS YOUR **WATERLOO**! YOUR FINGER-PRINTS ARE **IDENTICAL** WITH **THOSE** FOUND ON THE **JACK** HANDLE THAT **KILLED** **ABEL KANE** !!





... I WAS OUT ON EAST HIGHWAY THINKING THAT I'D MADE A NICE GETAWAY, WHEN OUT OF THE SKY COMES **THE SPIRIT** IN A FLYING AUTO I AIN'T EVER SEEN BEFORE.



... I'M GUN-CRAZY BY THEN SO I OPEN FIRE...



HA! I HIT HIS MOTOR!!
HA HA HA HAAA...

.. BUT AT THE SAME TIME I FORGET TO LOOK WHERE I'M GOIN'...



.. LUCK WAS WITH ME... I WASN'T HURT.. AND AS SOON AS I'M ON MY FEET, I RUN FOR THE NEAREST HOUSE...



STICK 'EM UP!!

WHY!!.. IT'S TED GROVER! IN THIS SWANKY HOUSE!



YES, SLIM... YOU SEE, I NOW OWN A LARGE CHAIN OF GROCERY STORES!

WHEN YOU KILLED ABEL KANE, HIS STORE WAS LEFT TO ME... BY HARD WORK I BUILT IT UP...

AND I CALLED YOU A SUCKER!!



HERE... OUT THIS WAY... YOU MAY HAVE A CHANCE, SLIM... GOOD LUCK....

SO LONG, TED.. THANKS... GUESS YOU HONEST GUYS ARE O.K. AT THAT!



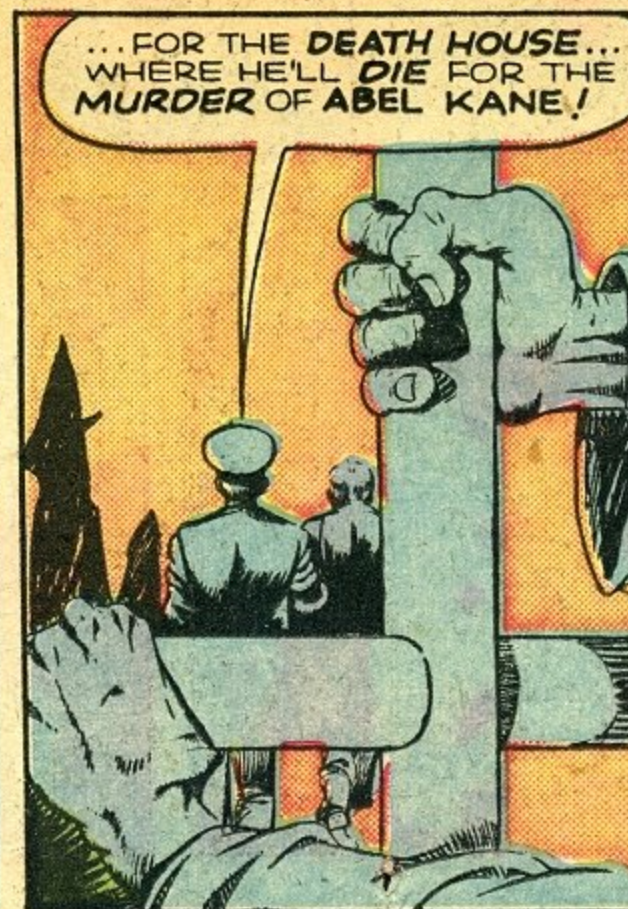
.. I LIT OUT ACROSS THE YARD... MY FEET SEEMED LIKE LEAD.....



.. SUDDENLY SOMETHING LIKE AN EXPRESS TRAIN HIT ME... IT WAS **THE SPIRIT**...



NOT SO FAST, SLIM!





LADY LUCK

by Ford Davis



BRENDA BANKS, WHO IS REALLY LADY LUCK, ATTENDS A FASHIONABLE DINNER.

SOCIETY IS NOT WHAT IT USED TO BE.. WHERE ARE ALL THE OLD FAMILIES OF YESTER-YEAR? THEY'RE BROKE AND FORGOTTEN...

I SUPPOSE OLD MISS LYDIA CAVANAUGH IS THE LAST MEMBER OF THE MAUVE DECADE..AND SHE MUST BE NEARLY A HUNDRED!



I BELIEVE THERE WAS A NIECE WHOM LYDIA ADOPTED, BUT NOBODY EVER SEES EITHER OF THEM..VERY STRANGE WOMAN, MISS CAVANAUGH..SO ALOOF..



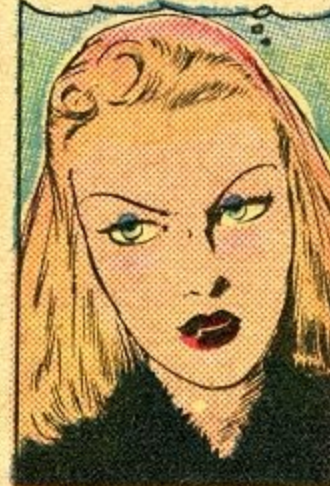
BRENDA STILL REMEMBERS THE CONVERSATION AT THE TABLE AS SHE BIDS HER HOSTESS GOODBYE...



JENNIE CAVANAUGH..I REMEMBER HER..SHE WAS THE SHYEST GIRL IN SCHOOL.



I WONDER IF SHE STILL LIVES IN THE OLD FIFTH AVENUE HOUSE?



A FEW MOMENTS AFTER MID-NIGHT LADY LUCK STANDS BEFORE THE DARKENED CAVANAUGH MANSION.



SHE BREAKS INTO A CELLAR WINDOW AND CLIMBS INTO INKY BLACKNESS.



HOW COULD ANYONE BUT GHOSTS LIVE HERE? BUT THERE WAS A LIGHT IN AN UPPER WINDOW!







SLOWLY JENNIFER REGAINS HER COMPOSURE.



IN THE DOWNSTAIRS HALL TWO MEN SCUFFLE ANGRILY.



THE YOUNG MAN DODGES NIMBLY PAST HIS BLOCKER AND HEADS FOR THE STAIRS.



A THIN BLADE SPARKLES IN THE GLOOM BUT...



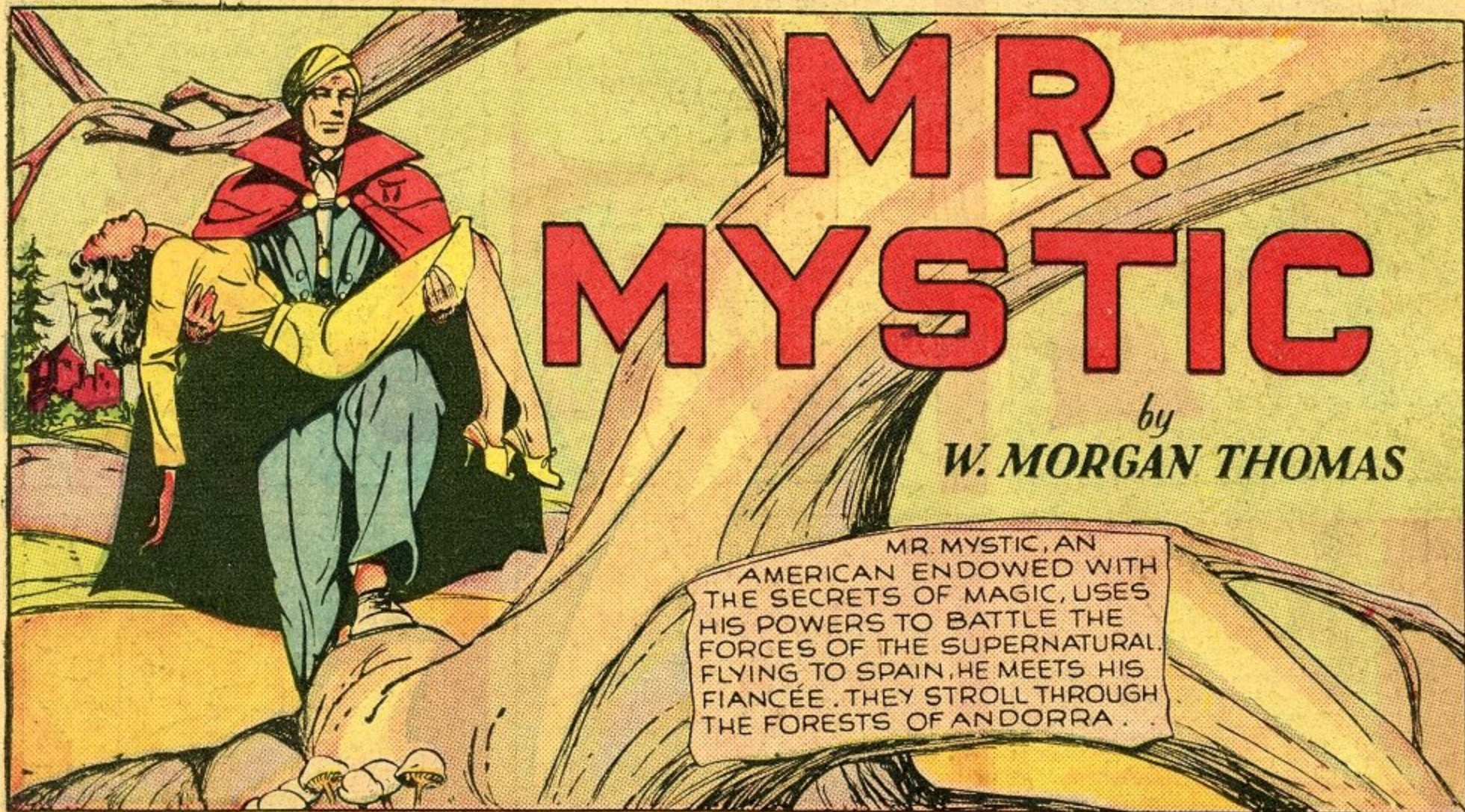
THE THRUST IS DETOURED BY A LIGHT INTERFERENCE FROM BEHIND.



SUDDENLY AN UNEARTHLY CACKLE BREAKS THE SILENCE.



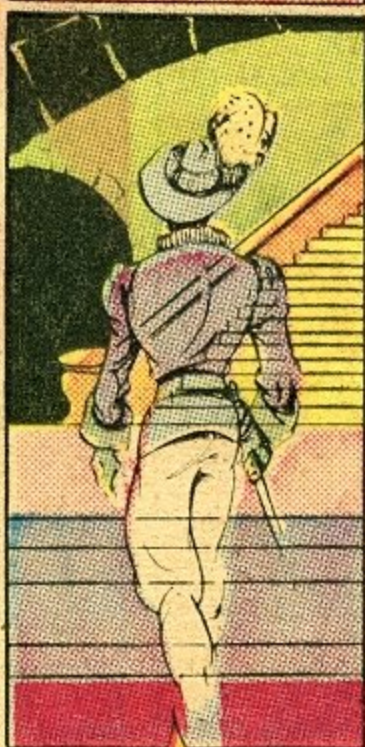




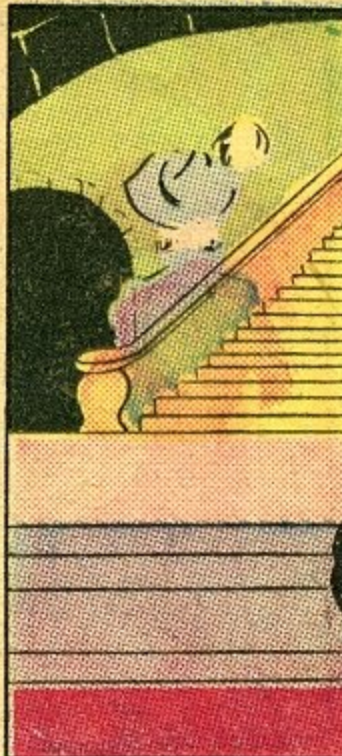
WELL! YSABEL! SO YOU'VE FINALLY RETURNED! I'LL TELL JUAN YOU'VE COME BACK... WAIT HERE!



WITH HARDLY A GLANCE AT THE TWO THE STRANGER TURNS HIS BACK...



AND QUIETLY DISAPPEARS INTO THIN AIR....



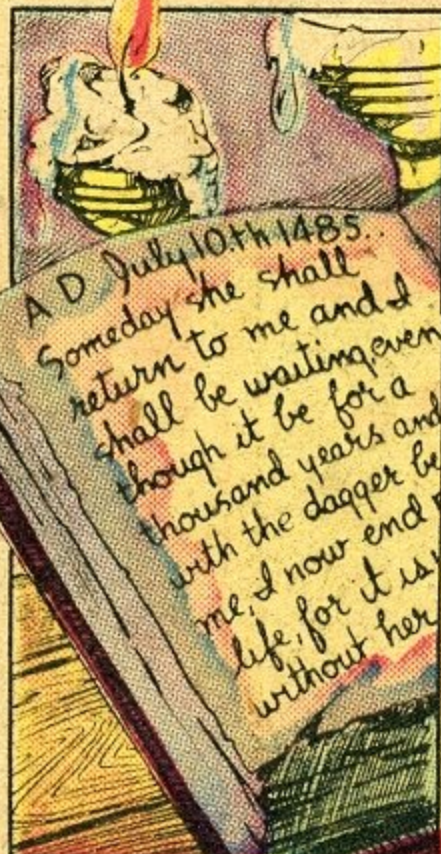
H-HE'S G-GONE! HE'S A G-G-G-GHO-!

GHOST, DEAR... WONDER WHAT HE MEANT WHEN HE CALLED YOU YSABEL?... AND WHO'S JUAN?? HERE, LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT THE BOOK ON THAT TABLE!



IT'S THE DIARY OF DON JUAN DE LEON! IT MUST BE THE JUAN OUR SPOOKY FRIEND WAS TALKING OF. LISTEN... 'AND ON THIS JULY DAY, 1485, MY WIFE YSABEL LEFT ME.'

LET'S LEAVE HIM, TOO!

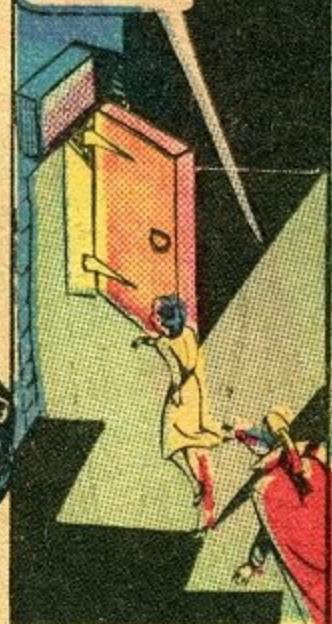


SEE WHAT YOU DID? YOU MADE THE POOR FELLOW KILL HIMSELF! AREN'T YOU ASHAMED?

DON'T! THIS ISN'T FUNNY! I'M SCARED, AND I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE! IF YOU CAN STAY IF YOU LIKE!



ELENA! WAIT! DON'T GET SORE! I KNOW IT ISN'T YOUR FAULT YOU LOOK LIKE SOMEONE ELSE!



AS ELENA REACHES THE DOOR IT SUDDENLY SLAMS SHUT

OH!! YOU AND YOUR TRICKS. OPEN THAT DOOR, MR. MYSTIC!



HE DIDN'T CLOSE IT. YSABEL! OUR INVISIBLE BROTHER DID IT! REALLY, YSABEL, I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S COME OVER YOU!... AREN'T YOU GLAD TO BE HOME AGAIN?



NOW WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO, SMARTY?

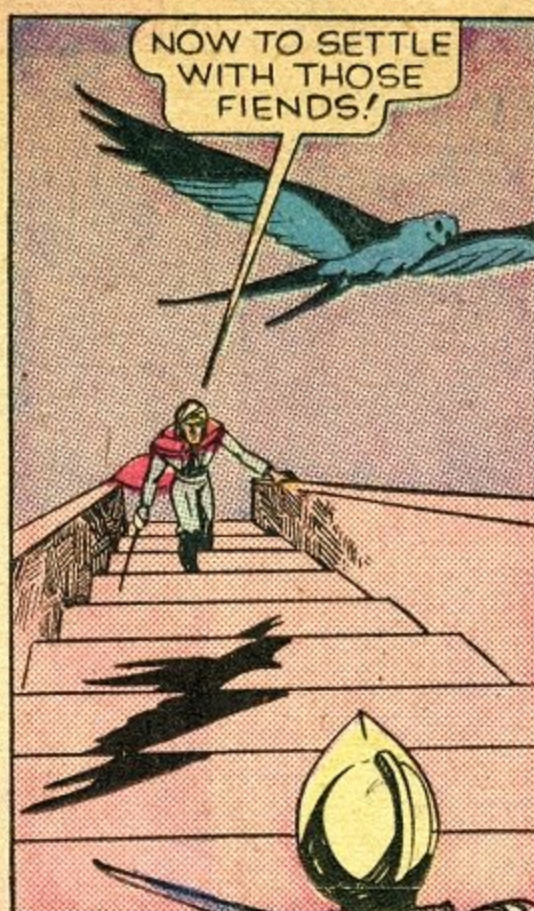
NEVER MIND THIS FELLOW! JUAN IS WAITING. ALL IS FORGIVEN.







MEANWHILE THE FIRST GHOST CARRIES ELENA TO HIS PRINCE, DON JUAN DE LEON.



UNABLE TO WITHSTAND THE FURIOUS ATTACK, THE GHOSTS FALL BACK... TOO LATE, FOR MR. MYSTIC'S BLADE KILLS ONE AND DRIVES THE OTHER OVER THE BALCONY.



AS THE OLDEST GHOST DODDERS AT HIM, MR. MYSTIC RESORTS TO THE EFFECTIVE AMERICAN WAY... A SOLID LEFT HOOK TO THE JAW.



VERY CLEVER, BUT THIS MUSKET WILL SETTLE YOU!



IN A FLASH MR. MYSTIC GESTURES WITH HIS SWORD, AND AN OIL LAMP CRASHES TO THE FLOOR, BURSTING INTO FLAMES.



INSTANTLY HUGE FLAMES ROAR UP TURNING THE CASTLE INTO AN INFERNO.



QUICKLY RETURNING TO HIS REAL SELF, MR. MYSTIC AGAIN BECOMES ONE.



THAT'S THE END OF OUR SPOOK FRIENDS, ELENA! COME ON!



JUST AS HE QUITS THE BUILDING, THE ROOF CAVES IN AND THE WALL OF THE CASTLE BEGINS TO CRUMBLE AND FALL.



YOU'RE A VERY NICE BIRD, ELENA, BUT I LIKE YOU BETTER AS YOURSELF! I COMMAND YOU TO CHANGE!



THERE'S ALMOST NOTHING LEFT OF THE CASTLE!... I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE IT!

